

Dr. Michael Friedman
Lead Deputy Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

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20 September 1999

Dear Dr. Friedman,

I am writing to urge you to require labeling of all genetically engineered (GE) foods and packaged products containing GE foods. I am concerned about the environmental and health effects of these products. I have become aware that increased usage of these GE foods will ultimately be detrimental to the overall health of our nation's people. GE foods carry with them many dangerous possibilities. Pesticide-resistant GE plants pollinate surrounding plants, allowing both weeds and pests to develop resistance to (normally) deadly chemicals. Increased use of genetically engineered foods also leads to an increase in human resistance to antibiotics, due to the use of antibiotic-resistant genes in GE food creation. Furthermore, GE foods leave the potential for deadly reactions in people with food allergies (e.g. soybeans using a Brazil nut gene to increase protein content). While GE foods may aid in increasing and ensuring our food supply, they may be inevitably hurting us in the longrun.

The Food and Drug Administration has historically been an important protector of consumer rights and public health. Please continue to allow consumers to make informed decisions regarding their personal nutrition by requiring manufacturers to label their products. Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to more strident regulations of genetically modified food products in the near future.

Sincerely,

Cathleen M. Brown

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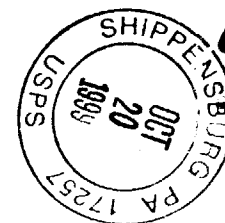
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